

Bulletin

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

www.aauwfortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org

Thoughts from the President:

AAUW “Start Smart” Training –

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Successful Workshop Co-Sponsored with Purdue University Ft. Wayne

Did any of your professors in college teach you how to negotiate your salary before you joined the workforce? I remember learning a lot about behavior and how to teach students with learning problems, but not one of my classes helped increase my knowledge about negotiating better pay for my job! I was so thankful to be out of school, when my first teaching contract and salary were offered, I just signed on the dotted line! It never occurred to me to ask myself, “*Am I worth more than the salary being offered?*” Complicating this lack of knowledge, during my first year I was asked to be on the “Negotiation Team” and worked with two other teachers to try to negotiate a better contract and salary for all the teachers. As a first-year rookie teacher, I am quite sure I would have represented the other teachers better had I been taught some negotiation skills in college.

Our Thanks to Purdue University Fort Wayne:

Recently, our first collaborative workshop utilizing the AAUW Start Smart materials was held on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne. My hat is off to Dr. Melissa Gruys and Dr. Terri Swim who were co-presenters with me. They did an outstanding job and their time and expertise were truly appreciated. The materials for the workshop were produced by national AAUW and quite effective. Our thanks to the university and faculty for collaborating with our Fort Wayne Branch of AAUW and providing us with a great facility to host the workshop.

Start Smart vs. Work Smart:

To help reach our AAUW goal of achieving equal pay for equal work, national AAUW designed the “*Start Smart*” workshop materials for teaching college students who are about to enter the workforce how to advocate for better pay. Due to the tremendous need for women to increase their earnings, the “*Work Start*” training materials are designed to help women who are already in the workforce to learn skills to earn a better salary. At some future date, we hope to be able to offer workshops in the community and use the “*Work Start*” materials for training women who want to improve their salary negotiation skills.

Because AAUW is “inclusive” and does not discriminate, both female and male students were also invited to participate in our Start Smart workshop. Both groups of students gave very positive remarks about what they learned and indicated that they were open to having additional training in the future!

Dr. Bobbie Weikle, President

Membership

Every AAUW member is a part of the membership team. Experience tells us that new members who are recruited by our own Branch members become active and stay in AAUW.

New AAUW Branch Yearbooks:

All AAUW members should have received their annual updated AAUW Branch Yearbook (Directory). It's bright orange to help us when trying to find it! Thanks to our Corresponding Secretary, Theresa Brady, for her time and work on this project and our newsletters.

Also, I am sure that **Esther Deal would love to get a letter or card from anyone in AAUW.** Her address is located in our new orange Yearbook! Remember... **"Membership" really does matter!!!**

Membership Matters

By Kris Conner and Donna McKenzie, Co-Directors of Membership

sticheratheart2@gmail.com or (260) 747-5776 or dcmckenzie@comcast.net or (260)637-0260

Shape the Future Campaign

National AAUW is offering a special price for any "NEW" member who joins at an AAUW meeting or event. The National dues have been cut in half! A new member would only pay ½ the regular national dues price (\$29.50), full local Branch dues (\$18.00), and State Dues (\$7.00). The dues are in effect until June 30, 2020!

\$ 29.50 National Dues

\$ 18.00 AAUW Branch Dues

\$ 7.00 IN State Dues

\$ 54.50 Total

Long Distance Membership...Really Matters!!!

50 Year Members:

What's it like to be a 50 + year member of AAUW? Recently, one of our long-standing and long distance members, Esther Deal, wrote me a "pen pal" letter that was truly reflective of her outstanding membership and contributions to AAUW. Many of you will recall that not only is Esther one of our proud 50+ years members, but she was an avid collector of our AAUW photographs and created some of our best historical albums for the organization. Her creativity and time in putting the information into an organized record has been deeply appreciated. When we began putting information together for the AAUW 80th anniversary celebration, her records gave detailed information to us about how our organization has developed through the years.

Esther currently makes her home in Goshen to live nearby her family. She is extremely proud that we have utilized the albums and records that she collected and says that she can tell from reading our newsletters **"that the Fort Wayne Branch is an active group of ladies becoming involved with professional women and making a difference in society. AAUW has made much enrichment to countless women's lives!"**

Esther added that she has just finished reading the book, "The Midwife's Song", by Brenda Ray, the story of Moses's birth. A librarian from Goshen selects "large print" materials for her to read and brings the books to her apartment.

Even though she lives quite a distance from us in Goshen, Esther is still an active Fort Wayne Branch AAUW member. Her letter was such an inspiration to read, I brought it to our October meeting to share. Thinking about all the lives of countless women that AAUW has enriched and what a difference we have made is something we all need to embrace and be proud of!

Dr. Bobbie Weikle, President

Celebrating
80
Years

Save the Dates!

**Mark your
Calendar!**

Programs

December 7, 2019 – Silent Auction and Celebrate Local Partnerships

Pine Valley Country Club

See page 5 for more details

March 21, 2020 - Annual Meeting & Recognition Luncheon

Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana Service Center

Branch Board Meetings

Start time: 6:00 p.m.

November 4, 2019

February 3, 2020

April 6, 2020

Location: Business and Technical Conference Room (2nd FL)

Allen County Public Library (ACPL)

900 Library Plaza (between West Washington Blvd. and West Wayne St.)

June 8, 2020 6:00 pm Potluck

Location: Clubhouse

UMMH Community Villas of Heritage Lakes

8220 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne

AAUW Trust

By Barb Kanning, AAUW Trust Chair

kanning4@frontier.com or (260) 432-5228

Grant Applications accepted January 1 through February 28.

The Grant Application Form and instructions for applying may be found on the web site at: <http://aauwfortwayne.org>.

Silent Auction Fundraiser

The proceeds from our Silent Auction at our December event at Pine Valley will be split – half will remain in our Fort Wayne Branch to support our local efforts and half will **support our National AAUW Fund** to advance our mission. Our gift to the National AAUW Fund helps support AAUW Advocacy, NCCWSL, Member Leader Programs, LAF, Tech Savvy, Student Advisory Council, Start Smart, CAP Grants, Elect Her, Younger Women’s Task Force, C/U Partners, Tech Trek, Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and more.

The auction items do **not** have to be “baskets”. A wide variety of items will be available. Among the contributions to bid on are lovely hand-crafted or specialty homemade food items. Some wonderful gift certificates for hotel overnights or for attending local events have also been donated for previous auctions. Get creative surprise us with what you come up with for us to bid on!

It is a good place to pick up a holiday or birthday gift for someone in your family or a friend.

In Memoriam



Mary Jane Smith

September 13, 1940 – October 3, 2019

Mary Jane passed away on Thursday, October 3, 2019 of complications from cancer. We remember her in AAUW as a member of Current Lit I who was well read and contributed a lot to discussions. While always polite, Mary Jane wasn't afraid to share differing perspectives, making us think deeper.

Mary Jane loved books so much she opened her own bookstore, MJ's Bookmark, in her native Auburn. Some may recall working with Mary Jane during her first career as a teacher and a speech therapist. Others may have attended retired teachers' events with her; she was also a former president of the DeKalb County Retired Teachers Association.

On a personal note, Mary Jane was so encouraging to me when I was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer. She had survived two breast cancer occurrences, and understood what I was going through. Mary Jane was a wonderful listener who empathized with others no matter what they were experiencing. When she received the most recent cancer diagnosis, she was positive and upbeat and inspired a lot of us.

Mary Jane is survived by a son and daughter and multiple grandchildren. She will be sorely missed in our Lit group.



Betty Sonnek

January 23, 1934 – February 6, 2018

Betty Jean Sonnek, of Waldorf, MN, died February 6, 2018 at her home, accompanied by her loving husband and children.

Betty Jean was born January 23, 1934 in Vivian Township, Waseca County, MN, the daughter of Herbert and Elsie (Schnoor) Bartelt. Betty met Charles when they were the only two 1st graders together in the country school, and remained classmates. She was united in marriage to Charles Dominic Sonnek November 25, 1953 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Minnesota Lake. Betty had an interest in genealogy and family history, and enjoyed sewing. She loved camping, walking in the woods, gardening and mowing, and being outdoors in God's creation.

Betty and her husband Charles planted hundreds of trees throughout the years, and ask that you honor Betty by continuing the tradition. In lieu of flowers, Betty would prefer that you plant a tree or other plants or flowers outside in her memory.

Betty and Charles lived in Fort Wayne for many years, as she was an honorary 50 year member of our Branch and actively supported our holiday silent auction most every year.

Celebrating
80
Years

Holiday Brunch & Silent Auction

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:30 am

Pine Valley Country Club

10900 Pine Mills Road, Fort Wayne

Come and bring a guest or two to our branch’s annual holiday brunch. Enjoy a delicious meal and have a chance to catch up with your AAUW friends, new and old.

Our guest speaker will be “Gigi” Goshorn, a senior student at Purdue Fort Wayne University. Gigi was chosen to represent the Fort Wayne Branch of AAUW to attend the NCCSWL Conference held last May. Gigi’s major is Finance & Marketing and after graduation she hopes to work in the finance industry as a financial analyst or other work with finances. She will talk about the leadership skills she learned while at the Conference.

We will also be celebrating our history of collaboration with other community organizations that celebrate and support women and girls! And, of course, our holiday brunch would not be the same without our **silent auction!** Kick off your Christmas shopping by bidding on a variety of tempting items in our silent auction. All proceeds benefit the AAUW Fund, which advances AAUW’s mission by sustaining our national programs and activities, as well as our local branch. We encourage everyone to contribute a gift basket or individual items to be included in the auction.

Food, fun and no-stress shopping—all for a good cause! Send in your reservations now!

We welcome all and we want you to be able to come so if you need a ride, please contact Cathy Huff at 260-403-7074 so she can arrange car pool services.

Early Bird reservation is \$16 per person if received by Friday, November 22.

On-time reservation is \$19 per person if received by Monday, December 2.

Your reservation and check must be received no later than December 2, 2019.

? Contact Cathy Huff at 260-403-7074 with any questions.



December 2019 Holiday Brunch Reservation Form

Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:30 am

Reservations and checks – **must be received by Monday, December 2, 2019.**

Member Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Guest #1 Name: _____

Guest #1 Phone number/email: _____

Guest #2 Name: _____

Guest #2 Phone number/email: _____

Total Number Attending: _____ X \$ _____ each meal = Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Mail this form and your check payable to “AAUW Fort Wayne Branch” to:

Eileen Fraser 9726 Silver Shore CT Fort Wayne, IN 46804

[Phone 260-432-7719; email eileen.fraser@outlook.com]

Check # _____

Interest Group Update – *Pen Pals R Us*

The members of the interest group, "*Pen Pals 'R' Us*" gave us many positive "kudos" in their feedback about how satisfying they felt about participating in this group last semester. The ninth-grade students from DeKalb High School who were our Pen Pals reciprocated the same feelings and one of them sent an invitation to attend the High School fall play, "*Clue*", in which several of the same students had acting parts that we could watch them perform.

Our cooperating Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Robin Williams, played a major role in helping to capture the interest of the students and in helping us with getting the letters to and from our Pen Pals. One of our primary goals was to help foster an awareness of good writing skills. We tried to write in an interesting and caring way to help establish an intergenerational relationship. Because many of us were former teachers, we also felt that along with modeling good grammar, we could also model using cursive handwriting, which is not being taught in many schools anymore. Our Pen Pal students found this very challenging and continued to work on their handwriting through the summer months.

Robin has agreed to act as our cooperating teacher for another Pen Pals project with us that would start in January. This time, we will each write 3 letters to our Pen Pals and then have a short party in May to celebrate the end of spring semester. That way, we will have a chance to meet our Pen Pals and put a name with a face.

This project will only happen if we have people sign up to be a Pen Pal. **I will need to know how many AAUW members want to participate by November 20th.** Robin needs to know ahead of time so she can help build the students' interest and be thinking ahead about various students who may need to earn some extra credit towards improving their course grade. (For the students, it is on a volunteer basis whether or not they participate.)

Last semester, each AAUW member who participated had two Pen Pals to write letters to. There were six AAUW members last time and we hope you will sign up for this phenomenal adventure. In December, we will meet for coffee and discuss the logistics for getting the letters back and forth and other questions answered about the project.

Please send an email with your name, address, phone, email address to me if you want to be part of *Pen Pals 'R' Us*.

Dr. Bobbie Weikle,
President

Interest Groups

Creative Arts and Service – Meets at various locations, dates, times

Tuesday, Nov.19 – Lunch at The Clyde Club Room	Hostess: Carol Isaacs
Tuesday, Dec. 10 – Winter Centerpiece, DYI Florist	Hostess: Donna McKenzie
Tuesday, March 17 – Lunch at Paula’s on Main	Hostess: Monette King

Creative Stitchery and Crafts – Meets the first Tuesday of the month at a group member’s home at 1 pm.

No additional information provided

Current Literature I – Meets the first Tuesday of the month at group member homes at 7:15 pm.

November 5 – <i>Carnegie’s Maid</i> by Marie Benedict	Discussion Leader: Linda Manning
December 3 – <i>The President is Missing</i> by Clinton and Patterson	Discussion Leader: Rosemary Bobish
January 7 – Lunch – Time and Location TBD	
February 4 – <i>The Great Alone</i> by Kristin Hannah	Discussion Leader: Theresa Brady

Current Literature II – Meets the fourth Monday of the month at Villas of Heritage Lake Clubhouse at 1:30-3 pm.

November 25 – <i>A Piece of the World</i> by Christine Kline Baker	Discussion Leader: Pat Becker
January 27 – <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> by Delia Owens	Discussion Leader Jane Anderson
February 24 – <i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama	Discussion Leader Cheryl Mathews
March 23 – <i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> by Amor Towles	Discussion Leader: Martha Weatherford

Great Decisions Book Club – Meets the Second Friday of the month at a member’s home at 11:30 am.

No additional information provided

Pen Pals R Us – organizer is Bobbie Weilke

Members write letters throughout a semester to students who are Pen Pals. The purpose of the interest group is to help build language skills through the arts of handwriting and letter writing, foster inter-generational relationships, and help the youth of today make a connection with AAUW members.

First Impressions – Meets at various locations and dates to enjoy interesting conversation, beverages and/or food, networking, and helping new members make connections with others. Organizers are Cheryl Mathews and Amy Lehman. RSVP to Cheryl at: 260-483-8733 or cmathews167@gmail.com.

Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 pm at Old Crown Coffee Roasters 3417 N. Anthony Blvd, Fort Wayne IN

Our first meeting for the new AAUW **“First Impressions”** Interest Group was a lot of fun. Cathy Huff Helt has chosen our next meeting date and place for the group to meet for the month of November. The Old Crown has an assortment of beverages and food, so there should be something for everyone! Relax and come as you are. For anyone who is coming from work, don’t worry about being a little bit late. We’re looking forward to seeing you soon.

Please feel free to bring a friend to join us. Each month, a different AAUW member will chose the time and place to meet. Please bring your thoughts, interests, and conversation to our next meeting.

The Bulletin Editor
c/o 7209 Tanbark Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Affix Address Label here

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Board of Directors

President: Dr. Bobbie Weikle
Director of Programs: Cathy Huff Helt
Co-Directors of Membership: Kristine Conner/Donna McKenzie
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Matthews
Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Brady
Director of Finance: Eileen Fraser
Chair of AAUW Trust: Barb Kanning

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch Committees

Director of Communications/Media Publicity: Jane Anderson
Director of Diversity and International Relations: Open
Director of Public Policy: Open
College/University Representative (PFW): Dr. Terri Swim
College/University Liaison: Dr. Gloria Shamanoff
Recognition Chair: Mary Lou Thomas
Nominating Committee Convener: Jane Anderson
AAUW Funds: Phyllis Thompson
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Interest Group: Cathy Huff Helt
Reservations: Eileen Fraser
Member Records: Theresa Brady
Historian: Pat Becker, Jane Anderson